

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF UTAH



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**Comments on Department of Labor Notice of Proposed
Rulemaking, Docket # EBSA-2016-0010; RIN 1210-AB63**

I am responding to a request for public comment contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Proposed Revision of Annual Information Return/Reports published by the Department of Labor (DOL) and coordinating agencies on July 21, 2016. My comments relate specifically to "those conforming amendments and the proposed annual reporting requirements for plans that provide group health benefits, including the new Schedule J, in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.*, 136 S. Ct. 936 (2016)."

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and the APCD Council have already submitted detailed comments with a proposed approach to support DOL's needs for data and information articulated in the Proposed Rule. Their approach leverages existing state infrastructure and investment to collect needed data and information into state APCDs and make that information available to the federal partners.

The partnership approach expressed in those comments would be highly beneficial to DOL and the states and will provide a simple, quick and effective solution to the disruption caused by the *Gobeille* opinion.

I respectfully request that DOL review the approach brought forward in the NASHP/APCD Council comments and consider the state partnership in the development of the final rules for the Form 5500 and Schedule J.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norman K Thurston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Norman K Thurston
Health and Human Services Committee